

In response, Applicants provisionally elect with traverse to prosecute the subject matter of Group I (Claims 1 to 19 and 42 to 47).

Applicants reserve all rights to the subject matter recited in non-elected Claims 20 to 41 and 48.

Further, Applicants believe that elected Claim 10 is generic.

The Examiner also entered two election of species requirements. In a first requirement, the Examiner identified Figures 15 and 16 as illustrating patentably distinct species of the claimed invention. The Examiner also identified Figures 11 and 12 as identifying patentably distinct species of the claimed invention.

In this regard, Applicants submit that Figures 15 and 16 correspond to Group II (Claims 20 to 41 and 48), but to the extent required, Applicants provisionally elect the specie of Figure 15 and the specie of Figure 11 for prosecution in the present application.

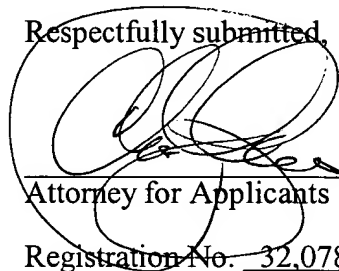
Applicants respectfully traverse the Restriction Requirement and the Election of Species Requirements. Without conceding the Examiner's characterization of the claimed invention, Applicants believe that the recited claims are sufficiently related that a thorough search of the art relevant to Group I will require substantial consideration of the art relevant to Group II, and all the identified species. Separate search and examination by separate Examiners may lead to duplicate work and inconsistent results. Accordingly, Applicants submit that it would be administratively and economically preferable to search and examine all of the claims together, and request that the Restriction Requirement and Election of Species Requirements be withdrawn and that all pending claims be examined in the present application.

Applicants believe that the present paper is fully responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action. Reconsideration and withdrawal of

the restriction requirement, and consideration on the merits of all pending claims at the Examiner's earliest convenience earnestly are solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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